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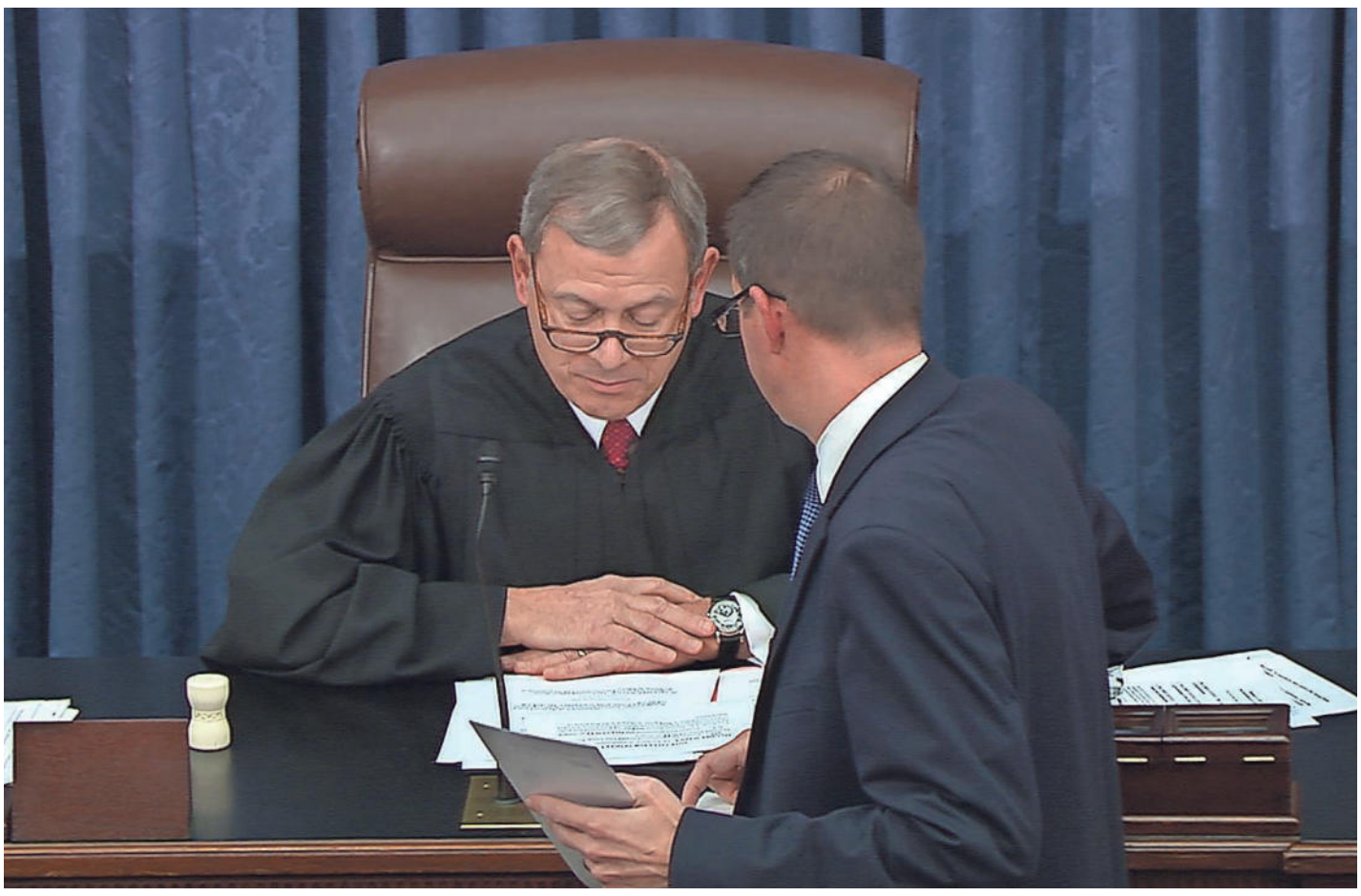


U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts declares President Donald Trump acquitted on the first impeachment charge Wednesday.
US SENATE TV/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

TRUMP ACQUITTED

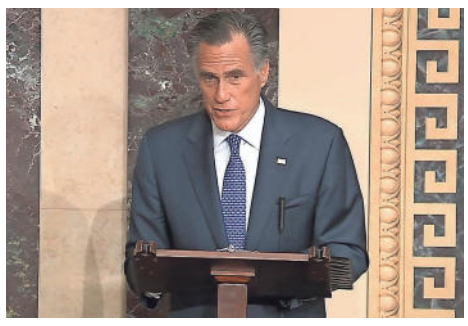
Senate declines to remove president over pressure campaign

Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood at their desks to state their votes for the roll call – "guilty" or "not guilty" – in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Visitors, including the president's allies, watched from the crowded gallery. Roberts read the declaration that Trump "be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges."

The outcome Wednesday followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.



In this video image, Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, speaks on the Senate floor Wednesday. Romney was the only Republican to cast a "guilty" vote. AP

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened Trump had eagerly predicted vindication, deploying the verdict as a political anthem in his reelection bid. The president contends he did nothing wrong, decrying the "witch hunt" and "hoax" as extensions of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian 2016 campaign interference by those out to get him from the start of his presidency.

Trump's political campaign tweeted videos, statements and a cartoon dance celebrating that he was "vindicated." Trump himself tweeted that he would speak from the White House on Thursday about "our Country's VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said there will always be "a giant asterisk next to the president's acquittal" because of the Senate's

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Deadly virus hits Dane County

Coronavirus case is first in Wisconsin, 12th in US

Madeline Heim
Appleton Post-Crescent
and Patrick Marley
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MADISON - A Dane County resident has been diagnosed with the first Wisconsin case of the coronavirus that arose in China in late December and has killed nearly 500 people there.

At a news conference Wednesday in Madison, local officials said the person traveled directly from the Dane County Regional Airport to UW Hospital on Jan. 30. The person had been in Beijing recently and came into contact there with someone who had the virus, DHS officials said.

The person, who showed mild symptoms of infection, has been in isolation at home since being evaluated at UW Hospital, and will remain there until clear of the virus, the officials said.

Any health workers who were in contact with the patient will also be monitored for symptoms.

Local health officials learned of the diagnosis Wednesday from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state Department of Health Services, according to Janel Heinrich, director of Public Health Madison and Dane County, the city and county's combined health department.

Heinrich and other officials declined to say where in Dane County the person lives or provide the person's gender or age, other than to say they are an adult.

Amanda Kita-Yarbro, a Public Health epidemiologist, said officials are working to identify who else was on the flight to Dane County Regional Airport. Those people will be tested only if they exhibit symptoms, she said.

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi said it is likely others in the community will eventually get the virus, but stressed that the risk to any individual

See CORONAVIRUS, Page 9A

What does leadership shake-up mean for 2020 DNC?

Bill Glauber
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

After Tuesday's swift and stunning firing of its two top leaders, the 2020 Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention is now in a race against a hard deadline.

Ready or not, 50,000 people will descend on Milwaukee for the convention, which will be staged July 13-16.

Two people who won't be part of the action are Liz Gilbert, former president of the host committee, and Adam Alonso, the former chief of staff.

Alonso

Gilbert

They were ousted by the host committee board a day after an investigation was opened into allegations the two leaders oversaw a "toxic" workplace.

Convention officials and local leaders indicate the aim is to get the committee back on track and get on with preparations for the event.

"What has to happen next is to identify and empower and put in place the leadership that is going to be needed to bring this to the finish line," said Tim Sheehy, president of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, a key convention backer.

"The point is, looking forward you need someone in that role who will quickly gain confidence and go out and execute," he said.

So, who actually oversees the convention?

First off, it's important to understand the convention landscape to try to figure out what the leadership turmoil means.

There are two groups that are involved in convention preparations. The host committee — which was led by Gilbert and Alonso — is a nonpartisan, nonprofit. It has two principal duties: Raise $70 million to stage the event and recruit 15,000 volunteers.

The other organization is the Democratic National Convention Committee. It's an arm of the Democratic National Committee and is run by Chief Executive Joe Solmonese. That group is responsible for putting together what happens during the convention, from

See DNC, Page 9A

Kirk Douglas dead at 103
Hollywood legend starred in "Spartacus," "Lust for Life." **9A**

Tough-on-crime bills
Republican plan doesn't include funds for new state prison. **Local, 3A**

Weather
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Snow.
Forecast, **4C**

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